

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1-53. (Previously Canceled)

54-60. (Cancelled)

61. (Currently Amended) A system for charging or maintaining a charge of a battery,
the system comprising:

plurality of parallel means for converting light energy received from a light source into
electrical current;

means for communicating electrical current from each converting means with a battery,
wherein each converting means has its own independent communicating means distinct from
communicating means of converting means; and

means for controlling the rate of current flowing into the battery;

wherein a charge of the battery is maintained or increased when each converting means
converts light incident upon ~~the~~ a cell into electrical current.

62. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 61, further comprising:

a translucent sheet positioned on the cell for protecting the cell from contaminants
without completely blocking light influx onto the cell.

63. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 61, wherein the cell comprises a
photovoltaic cell.

64. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 63, wherein the photovoltaic cell is covered by a protective translucent cover.

65. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 61, wherein the means for controlling the rate of current flowing into the battery comprises a switch ~~comprises~~ that includes a receiving socket for receiving the electrical connector.

66. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 61, wherein the means for controlling the rate of current flowing into the battery comprises a switch ~~comprises~~ that includes a variable current flow switch for controlling a variable rate of current flow to the battery.

67. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 61, wherein the means for controlling the rate of current flowing into the battery comprises a switch ~~comprises~~ that includes an on/off switch for allowing either a full flow of current to the battery or no flow at all.

68. (Currently Amended) A method of charging or maintaining the charge of a battery, the method comprising:

exposing a plurality of parallel energy-transforming cells to a light source, each cell being able to convert light energy received from a light source into electrical current; and

communicating the electrical current produced by each cell with the battery using an electrical connector, wherein each cell has its own independent electrical connector and switch

distinct from electrical connectors and switches of other cells, thereby maintaining the charge of the battery.

69. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 68, wherein the switch comprises a receiving socket for receiving the electrical connector.

70. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 69, wherein the receiving socket comprises a cigarette lighter receiving socket.

71. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 68, wherein the switch comprises a variable current flow switch for controlling a variable rate of current flow to the battery.

72. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 68, wherein the switch comprises an on/off switch for allowing either a full flow of current to the battery or no flow at all.

73. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 68, wherein the battery is in a vehicle.